KRISHNA STEALING BUTTER

from *Krishna Book,* Chapter 9 & 10

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CAST: Narrator, Yashoda, Krishna, Balarama, 2 Demigods.

Narrator: One day, seeing that her maidservants were engaged in other household duties, Mother Yashoda personally took charge of churning the butter. And while she churned, she sang the childhood pastimes of Krishna and enjoyed thinking of her Son.

Yashoda: (song) Oh Happiness...

Narrator: While she was churning, little Krishna appeared. **(Krishna enters)** Because He was hungry, He wanted His mother to stop churning and feed Him her breast milk.

Krishna: Feed Me Mata, feed Me Mata, feed Me Mata!

Narrator: Mother Yashoda gently took her Son on her lap, and was about to feed Him her breast milk when suddenly the milk on the stove began to boil over! **(sound)** Mother Yashoda at once put Krishna aside to go stop the milk from boiling over! **(she leaves)** Left in this state, Krishna became very angry! He pressed His teeth together, and taking a piece of stone He immediately broke a butter pot. **(sound)** He took butter out of it and went to a secluded place to eat. There Krishna invited Balarama to join Him along with the monkeys.

Krishna: Balarama! Look what I've got some nice, fresh butter!

Narrator: Krishna also called the monkeys to come and share the butter.

Krishna: Monkeys, come!

Narrator: They climbed atop a grinding mortar to steal more butter and yogurt, and then ate it. Balarama and the monkeys followed Krishna and enjoyed more butter with Him. **(pause while they eat)** Krishna, Balarama and the monkeys were deriving great pleasure from eating the butter that They had stolen from Mother Yashoda. They remarked how good the butter tasted...

All: Yummy, yummy butter!

Narrator: In the meantime, Mother Yashoda returned to the churning place and noticed the broken pot. She began to smile as she thought, This child is very clever. After breaking the pot, He has left this place, fearing punishment. She then began looking everywhere for Him.

Yashoda: Krishna! Krishna! **(she looks around)**

Narrator: After looking everywhere for Him, she finally found Him standing on the grinding mortar, feeding butter to the monkeys. Balarama looked up to see her coming and said:

Balarama: Quick! Mother Yashoda is coming! Let's hide! **(all leave except Krishna)**

Narrator: She silently approached her Son from behind, carrying a stick in her hand. Then Krishna also saw her coming, so He jumped up and ran away in fear. Mother Yashoda chased Him to all corners, trying to capture the Supreme Personality of Godhead. She could not easily catch the fast-running child, and as she ran her hair loosened as the flowers in her hair fell to the ground. When He was caught, Krishna was almost crying, and He rubbed His eyes with His little lotus hands, smearing black eye cosmetics on His face.

Seeing Him so frightened, Mother Yashoda threw her stick away and instead began to bind Him with rope. But as she endeavored to tie Him up, she found that the rope was short by two inches! She gathered more rope to add to it, but still they were too short. In this way, she connected all the ropes, but found they were still too short. Smiling and astonished, she thought, How is this happening? Lord Krishna, seeing His mother laboring so hard, became compassionate upon Her and agreed to be tied to the grinding mortar. After binding Her son securely with the rope, Mother Yashoda returned to her household duties. **(she exits)** Little baby Krishna, being bound to the grinding mortar could see a pair of Arjuna trees in the yard. He thought to Himself:

Krishna: First Mother Yashoda didn't feed me enough milk, so I broke the butter pot and fed butter to the monkeys. Now, she has tied me to a grinding mortar. So, I'll have to do something even <u>more</u> rascalish!

Narrator: Baby Krishna then crawled between the twin Arjuna trees. The grinding mortar lodged horizontally between them. As Krishna pulled on the rope, the trees fell to the ground with a great crash. **(sound)** Out of the broken trees came two demigods, Manigriva and Nalakuvara. They came before Lord Krishna and, bowing down before Him, they offered the following prayers:

Demigods: My dear Lord Krishna, You are the Supreme Personality of Godhead. We offer our respectful obeisances unto You. Please engage us in Your devotional service.

Narrator: Lord Krishna spoke to the demigods as follows:

Krishna: My dear demigods, this is your last birth in the material world. Now you can go back to your father's kingdom in the heavenly planets. You will soon be liberated.

Narrator: The two demigods circumambulated the Lord and, again bowing down before Him, they left. **(they exit)** The Lord, Sri Krishna, thus remained bound by the love of His devotees.

The End

3